

AN INTERVIEW WITH CARROLL DOLVE:

A CONTRIBUTION TO A SURVEY OF LIFE AND STRUCTURES ON THE COMSTOCK

Interviewee: Carroll Dolve

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Description

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Carroll Dolve recounts the story of the Gladding and Carroll families, both of which arrived on the Comstock early enough to participate in the nineteenth century mining boom. Mrs. Dolve reminisces about her childhood experiences growing up on the Comstock with her brother, Edward, and her sister, Harriet. Through her eyes the reader can glimpse the active life of children in Virginia City in the opening decades of the twentieth century. She also recounts the numerous household chores she observed her mother engage in while she grew up, and discusses the activities of an Indian woman who worked for her family. This affords the reader with a rare glimpse into the busy life of women on the Comstock, and helps to round out the picture historians have drawn of work on the Comstock.

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LIFE AND STRUCTURES ON THE COMSTOCK**

PREPARED FOR THE STOREY COUNTY, NEVADA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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An Oral History Conducted by Ann Harvey

University of Nevada Oral History Program

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PREFACE TO THE DIGITAL EDITION

Established in 1964, the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) explores the remembered past through rigorous oral history interviewing, creating a record for present and future researchers. The program's collection of primary source oral histories is an important body of information about significant events, people, places, and activities in twentieth and twenty-first century Nevada and the West.

The UNOHP wishes to make the information in its oral histories accessible to a broad range of patrons. To achieve this goal, its transcripts must speak with an intelligible voice. However, no type font contains symbols for physical gestures and vocal modulations which are integral parts of verbal communication. When human speech is represented in print, stripped of these signals, the result can be a morass of seemingly tangled syntax and incomplete sentences—totally verbatim transcripts sometimes verge on incoherence. Therefore, this transcript has been lightly edited.

While taking great pains not to alter meaning in any way, the editor may have removed false starts, redundancies, and the “uhs,” “ahs,” and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled; compressed some passages which, in unaltered form, misrepresent the chronicler's meaning; and relocated some material to place information in its intended context. Laughter is represented with [laughter] at the end of a sentence in which it occurs, and ellipses are used to indicate that a statement has been interrupted or is incomplete...or that there is a pause for dramatic effect.

As with all of our oral histories, while we can vouch for the authenticity of the interviews in the UNOHP collection, we advise readers to keep in mind that these are remembered pasts, and we do not claim that the recollections are entirely free of error. We can state, however, that the transcripts accurately reflect the oral history recordings on which they were based. Accordingly, each transcript should be approached with the

same prudence that the intelligent reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information. All statements made here constitute the remembrance or opinions of the individuals who were interviewed, and not the opinions of the UNOHP.

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, most have been reformatted, a process that was completed in 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

For more information on the UNOHP or any of its publications, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557-0324 or by calling 775/784-6932.

Alicia Barber
Director, UNOHP
July 2012

ORIGINAL PREFACE

The University of Nevada Oral History Program (OHP) engages in systematic interviewing of persons who can provide firsthand descriptions of events, people and places that give history its substance. The products of this research are the tapes of the interviews and their transcriptions.

In themselves, oral history interviews are not history. However, they often contain valuable primary source material, as useful in the process of historiographical synthesization as the written sources to which historians have customarily turned. Verifying the accuracy of all of the statements made in the course of an interview would require more time and money than the OHP's operating budget permits. The program can vouch that the statements were made, but it cannot attest that they are free of error. Accordingly, oral histories should be read with the same prudence that the reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries and other sources of historical information.

It is the policy of the OHP to produce transcripts that are as close to verbatim

as possible, but some alteration of the text is generally both unavoidable and desirable. When human speech is captured in print the result can be a morass of tangled syntax, false starts and incomplete sentences, sometimes verging on incoherency. The type font contains no symbols for the physical gestures and the diverse vocal modulations that are integral parts of communication through speech. Experience shows that totally verbatim transcripts are often totally unreadable and therefore a total waste of the resources expended in their production. While keeping alterations to a minimum the OHP will, in preparing a text:

- a. generally delete false starts, redundancies and the uhs, ahs and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled;

- b. occasionally compress language that would be confusing to the reader in unaltered form;

- c. rarely shift a portion of a transcript to place it in its proper context; and

- d. enclose in [brackets] explanatory information or words that were not uttered

but have been added to render the text intelligible.

There will be readers who prefer to take their oral history straight, without even the minimal editing that occurred in the production of this text; they are directed to the tape recording.

Copies of all or part of this work and the tape recording from which it is derived are available from;

The University of Nevada
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University of Nevada, Reno

INTRODUCTION

Carroll Gladding Dolve was born into a mining family in Virginia City, Nevada, in 1908. she grew up in Virginia City and attended the Fourth Ward School, graduating from there in 1925. Mrs. Dolve then moved to San Francisco to become a secretary. In 1929 she married Arthur Charles Dolve. Carroll Dolve returned to Virginia City in 1973, and she has lived there ever since.

In this oral history interview Carroll Dolve recounts the story of the Gladding and Carroll families, both of which arrived on the Comstock early enough to participate in the nineteenth century mining boom. Mrs. Dolve reminisces about her childhood experiences growing up on the Comstock with her brother, Edward, and her sister, Harriet. Through her eyes the reader can glimpse the active life of children in Virginia City in the opening decades of the twentieth century. She also recounts the numerous household chores she observed her mother engage in while she grew up, and discusses the activities of an Indian woman who worked for her family.

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CARROLL DOLVE
1984

AN INTERVIEW WITH CARROLL DOLVE

Ann Harvey: Mrs. Dolve, I know that you are a member of the Gladding family, and that you have done a great deal of research on the family's history. Before we discuss your own biography, could you share some of that information with us?

Carroll Dolve: Well, the Gladding family in America began with John the Settler who came from England in 1660 when he was about 20 years of age. He was descended from a prehistoric Norseman named Montpicket who had accompanied a Norwegian chief named Rolf to France and settled in what is now Normandy. This Charles Montpicket held a baronage from King William of England, and over the centuries the name—taken from his estate called Gladifer—became Gladding. John the Settler married Elizabeth Rogers and was one of the founders of the colony of Bristol, Rhode Island.

When did your father's father first move to Nevada?

My father's father, Amanker Lafayette Gladding, came to Nevada in 1862 from Johnsonsburg, New York; he was 18 years old. I don't know definitely where he was first in Nevada, but in 1870 he had a blacksmith shop in Wadsworth where he also made harness and built freight wagons. Two of his ancestors were Revolutionary War soldiers, and one brother and a cousin served in the Civil War. This cousin was Charles Gladding who established the Gladding, McBean Company in California. A. L. Gladding was one of the patrons who made possible the publishing of the *History of Nevada* in 1881.

Harriet Sharp, [my grandmother], was also a native of Johnsonsburg, New York, and she came to Wadsworth in 1873 to marry A. L. Gladding. One of her sisters, Belinda Sharp Standish, was married to a descendant of Miles Standish. A. L. Gladding and Harriet had 2 sons, James and Edward Seth. The family moved to Virginia City in 1886, and both boys attended the Fourth Ward School. A. L. Gladding died in 1908 at Virginia City, and Harriet died at Carson City in 1931.

Do you remember anything about your grandmother?

Quite a bit. She was a very short little lady, and she was a lovely person. She was a housewife, but she always had help. They lived in a big house in back of the old Fourth Ward School; it had 23 rooms in it. We lived there later ourselves—of course, we only used a couple of floors there. We didn't use the whole thing.

Did this house have a name?

No. It didn't have a name, but originally it was a miners' boardinghouse, and that is why it was so large. On the lower floor there was a big dining room and behind that was a kitchen. Then behind that were 2 little rooms; we always called them the China house because when it was a boardinghouse there were Chinese cooks and they lived back there. Then there was a room in front of this dining room which was probably a maid's room or something like that, but it was used for a bedroom. On the other side, and on the floors above, were bedrooms and sitting rooms. There were 3 full floors, and above that, on the fourth, were 2 little rooms. It was a sort of a tan originally, but when we lived in it all the paint was gone. It was brown. [laughter]

Is the house still standing?

Most of it burned several years ago, and just the lower floor was left. I don't remember what year that was, but now I understand someone is fixing it up. We haven't had it for several years.

When do you think your grandmother first lived in that home?

In 1886, and then we lived there from 1914 or 1915 on.

Could you tell us something about your father's brother?

Well, as a young man James Gladding was a deputy sheriff of Storey County, and later he was employed as a roadmaster by the V & T [Virginia & Truckee] railway at Virginia City, Moundhouse, and Carson City where he died in 1953. James had no children.

When he was in Virginia City, where did your uncle live?

He lived with my grandmother in the big house on South D Street. [The house behind the Fourth Ward School.]

Do you know where he lived in these other places you mentioned?

Well, Moundhouse is just a railroad place—a wide spot in the road you might say—and [in] Carson City he lived on North Carson Street.

Would you like to tell us something about your father now?

My father was Edward Seth Gladding. When he was a young man he worked as a butcher here in Virginia City, and then later he was a miner and a hoisting engineer. He married Elizabeth Alice Carroll, my mother. She was the second of 7 children born to Daniel and Elizabeth Lynam Carroll of Gold Hill, both of whom had come to America from Ireland when they were young children. She died in 1892 of pneumonia, and he was killed while thawing dynamite at a mine in Como, Nevada, in 1906.

What is thawing dynamite?

Sticks of dynamite will freeze, and they have to thaw it before they can use it. Nobody knows what happened—he'd done it hundreds of times—but this one time he was in the powder shack alone, and it just exploded. He was blown all over the mine and Como—everything went up. That was 2 years before I was born, so I never knew him. I really don't know anything more about him, but one of Daniel's ancestors was Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. I don't know just what the relationship was, but he was an ancestor.

My father was quite a person. He had a very good sense of humor—just like my brother—and he did a lot of things. He worked in the Con-Virginia mine 7 days a week, so he didn't have too much leisure time, but he liked to go hunting and that sort of thing when he did.

When your father was a butcher did he own a shop here in Virginia City?

No. He just worked for different butchers here. One of them was Hancock, and another was Ziegler.

Do you remember where their shops were located?

Well, on C Street, but I don't remember the exact locations anymore. He also worked in the slaughterhouse that was out on Ophir Grade*. It isn't there anymore because they put that big pit in Gold Hill. The road went out from here to the Five Mile reservoir, and half way out there there was a slaughterhouse where they brought in the animals to kill for the shops here.

Do you have any idea where the meat eaten here in Virginia City came from?

Well, no. I presume [from] the ranches around Washoe Valley, and [from] down around Dayton because there were all sorts of ranches [there].

How long was your father a butcher?

About 10 to 14 years, or something like that. I really don't know for sure, but I think he went into the mines about 1904.

When he went into the mines, was he a miner first and then a hoist engineer?

Yes, but I don't remember the dates. [He was a miner] for many years, and I know he had a hoisting engineer's license and he did that. He was well-liked by everybody that ever worked with him.

When he had time, he used to make furniture for us: dressers, desks and things—not toys, but child-sized furniture for us to use.

Did your father belong to a political party here in town?

I don't think so. Of course, everybody had to belong to the Miners' Union.

*Residents of Virginia City interchange the name Ophir Grade with Jumbo Grade, the name found on maps. Jumbo Grade, i.e., Ophir Grade, is to the south of Virginia City and is the access to Five Mile reservoir. Ophir Grade is not to be confused with Ophir Hill as it associated with the Ophir mine, both located on the north end of Virginia City.

Did he ever talk to you about that?

No. He was a school trustee once, but he worked so much he didn't have much time to do anything else. He wasn't a joiner. Now, his brother, Jim, was a 50-year Mason.

Why don't we talk about your mother? When and where was she born?

My mother was born in 1880 in a little house down in lower Gold Hill, Nevada, which of course isn't there anymore. She had 4 sisters and 2 brothers. There was Mary, and then my mother, and then Kate, Margaret, Julia, Richard and William. She graduated from high school in Gold Hill; there was a school in Gold Hill at that time. I think it was a 3-storey building; it burned down.

Did she belong to any social clubs?

She belonged to the Women's Relief Corps. I think it was connected somehow to the G.A.R. [Grand Army of the Republic] and they met in the Odd Fellows building.

Did she have a religious preference?

She was Catholic, but for many years she only went on occasion—I guess she was just too busy—but in later years she went back [regularly].

I am very interested in women's work in the nineteenth century. Could you describe the kinds of activities your mother engaged in when she did her housework?

She had 3 children, so there was plenty of it in those days. [laughter] She had to clean, sweep and scrub— all by hand—and she baked bread.... I remember that so well.

Twice a week she baked 5 loaves of bread, and every day either cake or pie because there were 5 of us, and then she had to put up lunch for my dad. And at 2 different times an uncle lived with us, and then she had to make another lunch. Sometimes she would make more than one cake in a day, so she was pretty busy. [She used] the old wood and coal stoves that had the big ovens, the fire boxes, and on top the lids. I guess everybody had the same.

Before we go on, social historians are very interested in the foods people eat. Could you tell us what your family may have had for an average breakfast, lunch and dinner around 1910 or 1920?

Well, before he went to work my father would have a big breakfast. If there were potatoes left from the night before, he would have those fried, and if there was a steak or chops or something, he would have those and probably eggs, coffee and bread. Of course, the rest of us didn't eat that much. We just had ordinary food, all kinds of vegetables and fruit—my mother used to can fruit and vegetables, [and make] jams and jellies.

Did your mother pack your father a lunch when he worked in the mines?

Oh, yes.

Do you remember what she would put in that?

Well, sandwiches, fruit and, of course, cake. Then the top part of the lunch buckets had a place to put coffee or tea. My father never had tea because he said, "If the tannin would take the stuff off the lunch bucket, what would it do to your insides?" [laughter] So he never had tea.

Sometimes they made what they called pasties, from the Cornish, but here everybody made them. They were meat, potatoes and onions layered in a nice crust. The miners took those because they were easy to handle. They had to carry it, and they couldn't keep it hot or anything when they took it down in the mine with them—I guess it was probably hot enough down there.

What did you have for dinner?

Well, we always had meat, some kind of potatoes, vegetables and salads...just about what we have now.

You mentioned that your mother canned. Did you help her, and what did she can?

Well, we used to help if we could. [She canned] any kind of fruit: peaches, plums, pears and tomatoes. Then she made piccalilli and that sort of stuff.

Piccalilli?

Piccalilli is made out of green tomatoes and onions— I really don't remember what else went in it—but it's like a relish, like chili sauce only its made out of green tomatoes. And she would put up cucumber pickles, too, and jams and jellies.

Did she have her own garden?

We used to have a little garden—not a great big garden.

Did you can some of the things that came from your garden?

Well, no. We didn't have enough for that; we bought stuff for the winter, big lugs of

peaches and things like that. For winter we also bought several sacks of potatoes and boxes of apples, and put them in the cellar so that we would have them. We used to be more isolated...not really isolated, but it wasn't like it is now. The roads weren't always open, so you had to have things on hand.

Do you remember where your mother bought this produce?

Oh, at the grocery stores. Mostly we bought at N. C. Prater Company; it was on C Street. Then there was another store on the Divide called Pascoe's, and we used to buy quite a bit there, too. In those days they came around in the morning and took an order for what you wanted, and then they delivered it in the afternoon. So, if you didn't want to go to the store, you didn't have to—which was good because otherwise you would have to walk and pack all that stuff.... Well, we always had a horse, but that was the way they did it. And everybody had accounts at the stores; it wasn't like now. You didn't have to pay when you got it; you paid at the end of the month when payday came around.

Could you tell me more about your mother's housework?

Well, all the sweeping was done with brooms until later years, and people even took up their carpets and hung them on the clothes line and beat them with a carpet beater. Of course, she did a little gardening, and she made our dresses sometimes—she did a lot of sewing on curtains and dish towels, et cetera, and she darned socks. They didn't last like they do now! They got holes in them. Originally she had to clean lamp chimneys and fill the lamp with coal oil and all that sort of thing. But when I was about

4 or 5 years old, we got electricity put in our house.

Then she did laundry, but she had help with the laundry. There was an Indian colony just a short ways from us, probably not more than a half a mile, and the squaws used to go out and do housework and washing for people. We had one—the same one—for years and years. She came at 8:00 every Monday morning and would have her breakfast. Then she would help us get ready for school, and then she and my mother did the laundry—she did most of the rubbing on the board. In those days you had to scrub and boil [the clothes]. The white ones were boiled in a wash boiler and then put in a blueing rinse. All the colors had to be done separately because they faded. Then, it all had to be hung out on the lines.

The Indians were a very interesting people. They were poor, and they didn't get much for this. I think this woman got \$.75 for the day. Her name was Annie Davis. She had a husband, Tom, and a daughter, Susie, who had a couple of children. Just before noon the whole family would show up, and we had to give them lunch, so they didn't make out too bad there.

They were very proud. My mother wanted to give them clothes we outgrew, but she knew that you did not [just] hand it to them—they wouldn't take it. But there was a trail that went out to their camp, and you could put the clothes in a box, put it on the trail, and they would pick it up. But they wouldn't accept it from you; they were very proud.

They were very nice, but when my mother got a washing machine, Annie—the woman who used to wash for us—wouldn't speak to us anymore. She had that job for so many years; she was very put out. Everybody felt bad about that because we liked her.

Do you know what ever became of Annie?

I suppose she just died here, or she went away. All the Indians gradually left. There wasn't anything for them here. People got washing machines and vacuum cleaners, and they didn't need the help.

There was another Indian camp out on the north end of town, too. But I don't know anything about that one. The one we lived near was on the south end of town, on a hill over beyond Ridge Street. They didn't have tepees; they had wickiups. Those are sort of round huts. Some of them had little wooden houses; a lot of them were kind of modern. The squaws always wore Indian garb: shawls and bandanas around their heads, and they wore long full dresses. But the men looked just like other men. They chopped wood and did that sort of thing for people. I remember if somebody died over there they would make a fire, sit around it and wail half the night.

You mentioned that when someone died they wailed and mourned for the people. Were there any festivities you saw them having that were joyful?

No. I think they were almost modernized. They had taken over too many of the white man's ways.

Thank you for telling us about that. Now, is there anything else you would like to tell us about your mother?

Well, at one time she helped out in the post office. Edward [my brother] was postmaster here for 36 years, and when he was in the army Marion [Mrs. Dolve's sister-in-law] was the acting postmaster, and my

mother helped out. She was the clerk there then. That was probably for only a year. I don't remember exactly because I wasn't here. Other than that I don't think she ever did anything outside the home.

Let's talk about your own biography now. Why don't you tell me, first, your full name, and then tell me a little about yourself?

[My full name is] Carroll Bernadette Gladding Dolve. I was born in Virginia City at home on Ridge Street, 7 May 1908, and the doctor was Fred Hodgins—he was here for quite a few years. I was here until I graduated from high school in 1925. Then I went to San Francisco and was employed there, but I came back to Virginia City in 1973 and built a house here, so I guess I'll be here from now on.

[My parents were] Edward Seth Gladding and Elizabeth Carroll Gladding. I had a sister, Elizabeth Harriet, who was 4 years older than I, and a brother, Edward Daniel, who is 2 years younger.

Where did you go to school?

I went all the way through [school] at the Fourth Ward School, and I graduated from there.

Could you describe the Fourth Ward School?

There were 3 floors that they used, and there was one above that. We started down on the first floor and went up as you progressed. I started the first grade down on the lower level—later on they made that into a home economics department. [On the top floor] we played basketball, and at one time they printed the school paper up there. I don't know how long that went on.

Do you remember what the name of the school paper was?

No, that was before I was in high school, but the school annual was the *Hot Water Plug*.

The school looked just exactly as it does today—since they've repainted it and everything. The inside had big rooms, high ceilings and nice woodwork; it had wainscoting on all the walls. Then we had old potbellied stoves in the winter, and the poor janitor, Emmett Wilson, had to pack all that coal up those stairs.

Could you describe some of your grammar school teachers?

Well, I had the same one for the first 3 grades, Mollie Somers, and she was really a great teacher. She was a teacher for years and years. We had reading, spelling and so on. In the first, second and third grades, if you happened to be the highest in a subject or had the highest average, you could sit in the first seat.

So, you all were inspired to try and be the first. Who was your next teacher?

I think her name was Alva Williams. I had her in fourth grade, and fifth was Annie Righini. In the sixth and seventh I had Marion McKenzie, and Marian Mitchell in the eighth grade.

Do you remember any of the games that you used to play in grammar school during recess?

Well, we used to play ring around the rosy, hide and seek and hopscotch.

What did you and your friends do in the summertime?

Mostly we played around the mine dumps. We would get something to slide on, a can cover or something, and slide down that way. And we played with dolls and all that sort of thing. We didn't have a place to swim here, but once in a while we would go to Carson Hot Springs or Bowers Mansion and go in the water there. [When] we used to go to Bowers Mansion a little car on the railroad track would take 30 or 40 of us down opposite Bowers, and then we had to walk from the tracks over to Bowers. Everybody would take their lunch, and we could go in the pool for an hour.

What was there to do in the winter?

Sleigh riding mostly. [We sleighed] on any of the hills. There was a hill that came down from C Street over to where we lived a long time ago, and we could always go down there. A lot [of the kids] would get started at the Divide and go clear to Silver City, but I don't recall that I ever went any further than Gold Hill. And a bunch [of us] would bobsled down Six Mile Canyon. Other than that, there was really not too much you could do in the wintertime... maybe get out and throw snowballs at somebody.

What do you remember about high school?

Well, nothing very spectacular. [laughter] We had the regular subjects, and we took whatever we had to. I concentrated on doing secretarial [work], typing and shorthand, because that's what I wanted to do when I finished. I had some very good teachers.

Do you remember any of their names?

Well, the principal was Mr. Dilworth, who has a school named for him in Sparks. Nevada Higgins taught music; her name is Greenhalgh now. Thelma Jenkins [taught home economics]. One time I got to go to the university for sewing from home-ec. They picked one for cooking and one for sewing. I always liked to sew, and I made my clothes, too. So I got to go down to the University of Nevada. I had a nice time down there, too. Margaret Griffin was a student at the university at that time—she was related to us on my mother's side of the family—so she took us around quite a bit and took us to dinner. She later taught for years and years in Reno. Then she did a lot of traveling around for home economics; she went all over.

Who was your history teacher?

I think it was Tony Zeni; he taught history or English—one or the other. Then there was Gary Eden. They were all from the University of Nevada.

I finished high school in 3 years because I wasn't going to go to the university, so I needed one less credit. [Actually] I needed another half credit [to graduate early], so they allowed me to go back a half hour early after lunch and take another typing class, so I graduated that year. Another girl did the same thing; her name was Corabelle Strauss. We both ended up in San Francisco and worked in offices near each other. At one time we were in the same building; she was in the office right next to me. [laughter]

Did the girls hang out at any one spot in town when you were a teenager?

No. I don't think so; I didn't anyway. I think everything was different then. They didn't do that so much as they do now.

Anyway, it was a small place, and everybody was everywhere. It was so little there was no special place.

Were there dances while you were a teenager?

Oh, yes. We used to have dances and everybody went: the children, the grown-ups, everybody. Some of them were in the old National Guard Hall, and some were up in Piper's Opera House; that's where we used to play basketball, too, and at one time they had movies there.

Was there any other place where you could see movies?

In later years there was a little movie downtown, but I wasn't here then, so I don't really know.

In those days the dances were really fun. A little orchestra used to play for some of them; I think there were 4 or 5 in that. And then Tony [Pecetti] used to ride a motorcycle from Reno and bring his accordion, and he would play for dances. That was fun. Then, the mill was running down in American Flat [where] they had built these huge big tanks, and before they filled them, they would put a ladder down and have a dance in the bottom of the tank. It was fun. Oh, we did a lot of things. When we had cars, in later years, we used to go out to Genoa to the Candy Dance and different places. Of course, we traveled around for basketball games. In those days we played Reno, Sparks, Carson, Yerington, Dayton—it had a high school then—Douglas County and Stewart. That was about it. Now, I guess, it's all divided into divisions, but that wasn't the case when we were going to school.

Did your brother play basketball?

Oh, yes. He was good, and my sister did, too. We had girls' basketball then, and we all played.

Could you tell me about the girls' basketball?

Well, it was played differently then. Now they play just like the boys' game, but when we played the floor was divided into 3 sections. So, we had the centers—a jumping center and a side center, 2 guards on one end, and 2 forwards on the other. But if you so much as got your toe over that line, that was a foul, so it wasn't really exciting like the games are now. The boys would be all over the floor, and the girls play that way now, but we didn't play that way. And we had these big navy blue bloomers and blue and silver jerseys, and we wore long stockings. We didn't have shorts and that sort of thing, but it was fun. We enjoyed going to the other places. We didn't have buses to take us, but my mother and one other lady here would always take a carful and follow all the games. Everybody was very nice helping out like that, so we got to go.

Would the boys and girls play at the same time?

We would both play the same night. First we would have the girls' game, and then the boys'. They did it that way everywhere. The times have changed. We didn't have all the things they have today, but we had fun.

Would you like to tell us about some of your high school friends?

Well, Alice Byrne and I were in school together—then her name was Hinch. Now she is the director of the Senior Center. Then I had a very good friend whose name was Annie Muldoon, and another whose name was Elaine Wilson. I couldn't name them all

because it was a small school and everybody knew everybody else.

Were there any high school organizations that you belonged to?

Well, there was the Glee Club and the 4-H Clubs. I belonged to the 4-H Club. We did sewing and darning, and we met once a week or once a month—whatever it was. I don't remember that now. [We met] after classes at the school.

Was the Fourth Ward School a pivotal place for children?

Yes, it was.

Did you participate in any other school activities?

Well, in high school I was on the staff of the *Hot Water Plug*.

Could you tell us about high school events?

Every year there was the senior ball, and everybody went to that. It was dancing and was just fun. Then we put on plays. In the eighth grade we put on a play, *Mrs. Tubbs of Shanty Town*. I was in that.

Where did you put the plays on?

It was in the National Guard Hall; this is where most of these things went on.

So, they had a stage?

Yes, downstairs; there was a nice big dance floor and a big stage.

Where did you have the senior ball?

That was in the same place.

Did you ever have recitals?

The music teacher would sometimes have a recital, and we put on musical programs for the PTA. We played our little pieces and duets.

Now I'm going to ask you to more or less summarize your biography after you left Virginia City. I want you to tell me why you wanted to be a stenographer, and why you went to San Francisco.

The reason I went to San Francisco was because I was down there once when I was 14 years old. It was a beautiful day, and I said, "This is where I'm going when I finish high school." So I did. Then Munson's School for Private Secretaries was a very good secretarial school. I don't know if it is still in existence or not.

Was it in San Francisco?

Yes. On Sutter and Mason. I went there and finished that course in 6 months, and then I got a position. They secured a position for every graduate there, so that was no problem. There were lots of jobs in those days. I thought I would like to work in an office, and I did when I finally got into it.

What period of time are we talking about?

From 1926 until 1964.

Good heavens! [laughter] Was it common for a woman to be working?

Yes. There were lots of stenographers then.

Did other women from Virginia City go to San Francisco?

Well, this one girl that I mentioned before who graduated when I did, Corabelle Strauss, she did the same thing. Oh, there were many, many that went to San Francisco. San Francisco was always called “the city,” you know, and when anybody here said “the city” they meant San Francisco. It was the only city around then; at that time Reno wasn’t very big. So, a lot of people from here moved to the Bay Area, Oakland and all over down there.

Why is that do you think?

I don’t know. I suppose because the opportunities were there for jobs. The mines were not through, but there weren’t too many of them working anymore, and so people had to go somewhere else. There was nothing for young people [here], so it was imperative to go somewhere else for most people. Some just went to the clubs in Reno or to Carson and worked for the state, but a great many went to the Bay Area. I liked it, and I met a lot of nice people.

Where did you work after you went down?

Well, in several different places. I worked for Libby, McNeill and Libby for about 10 years, and then for many years I worked for Somerset Importers which was a company owned by Joseph Kennedy—he imported scotch whiskey. That was during the war years. The last position I had was with California Physicians Service [Insurance Corporation]—

that’s Blue Shield. I worked in the Public Assistance Department as they called it, and that was where most of the counties in California were insured. That was kind of interesting; you found out a lot of things about business that way. [laughter] I stayed home for a few years in between, but then I would get bored and go back to work.

When did you marry?

That was way back in 1929.

Who did you marry?

Arthur Charles Dolve was his name. I met him in San Francisco. I was doing some extra work at night at an auto show for a friend, and he had a booth there. In those days the auto accessories were all separate; they didn’t come on cars, so I was handing out literature and that sort of thing. There was a booth next door, and this is where I met him. Anyway, then we came up to Reno and got married. Then I called up my mother and told her— she was surprised. [laughter]

We lived in San Francisco until he retired, and he thought I should retire, too. So then, we had a little place down in Ben Lomond, California, that is down in Santa Cruz County. We had built this place there for weekends, so when we retired we moved down there. I was there till he died in 1973. That is when I came back here; I thought I would come back home.

To be close to your family?

Yes. They have always lived right here, so I had this house built, and here I am; I’ll probably be here forever. [laughter]

Think back over the years and tell me what you think the greatest changes are that have happened in Virginia City since you grew up here.

Well, there are not many mines [anymore]. We have United Mine, but they're doing strip mining, surface mining— its not like the old underground stuff. And there were all sorts of businesses and stores. There were professional people. And old buildings everywhere and nice homes.

A lot of tourists?

Oh, yes.

Before we end, I was hoping you could fill in the Gladding family history for us to this date.

Well, as I said, I had one sister, Harriet, who was older than I. She also went down to the Bay Area to Oakland where she went to Heald's Business College, and then she worked there, but I don't remember where she worked. She met and married Emery McLaughlin there. They moved back to Detroit for a while, and then they came back and lived in San Jose. They finally moved to Vallejo. They had 2 daughters; the older girl was Colleen, and the younger one was Jacquelyn. Now Colleen has a daughter and 2 grandchildren, and Jackie has 2 daughters, a son, and 6 grandchildren—and I think of them as little kids! [laughter]

Edward Daniel, my brother, lives here, and he has always lived here with the exception of when he went to USF, and [was in the army].

USF, that is the University of San Francisco?

At that time it was St. Ignatius College. Then, when he came back here, he was

appointed postmaster, and he was postmaster for 36 years. He retired in 1969 when he was 59. Everybody liked him, and thought he was a [great] postmaster. He married Marion Andreassen; they have 2 boys: Edward Alan and Frederik James. Eddie was in the military intelligence for quite a while. He married Phyllis Koenig and they have 2 boys: Edward Justin who is 8, and Ryan who is 4. Fred teaches here in Virginia City, and he's the basketball coach. He married Karen Morghen, and they have 2 children Kiersten who is 7, and Matthew who is 3.

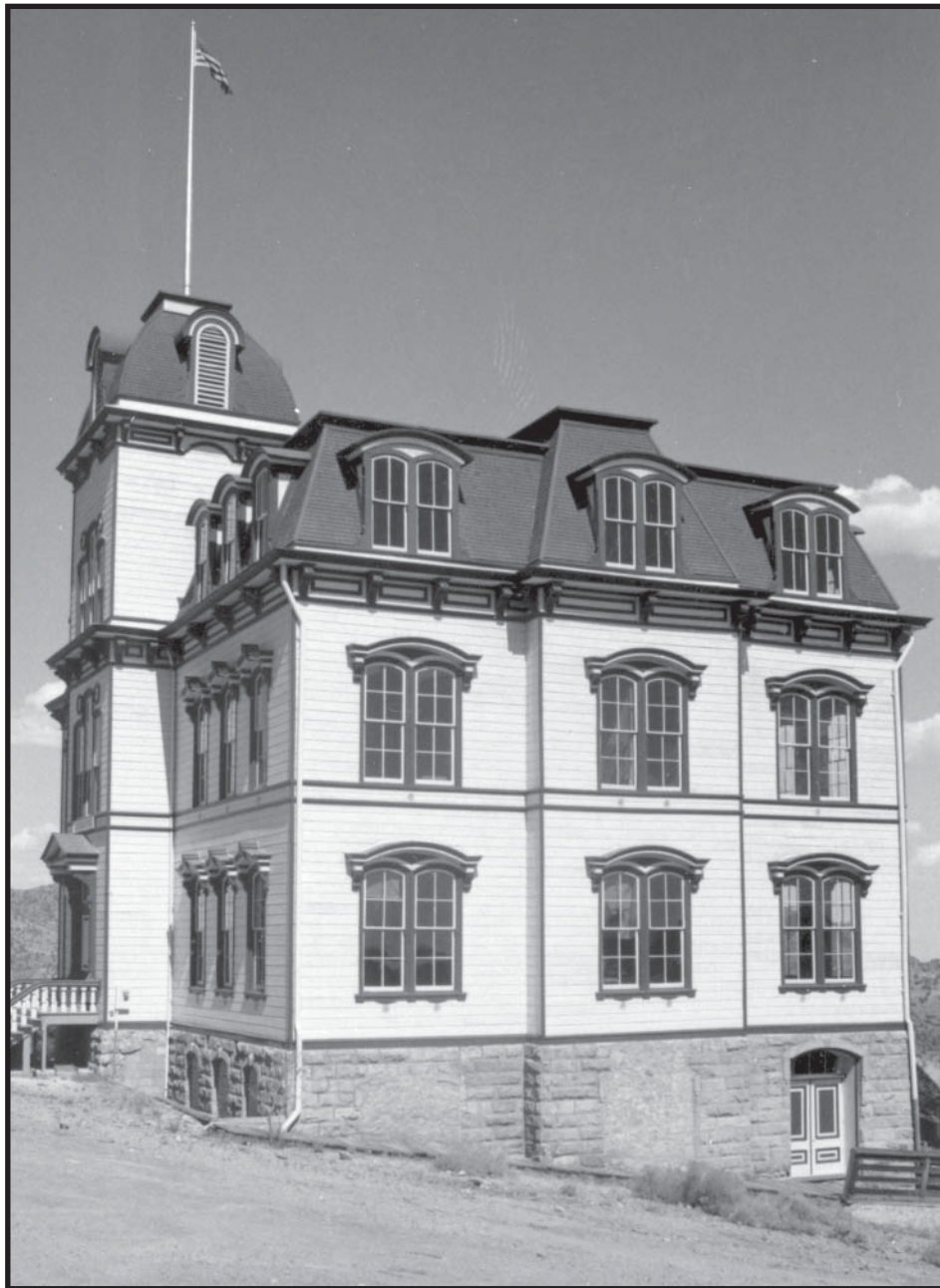
He is carrying on a Virginia City tradition as basketball coach, isn't he?

Oh, yes. He's won 3 tournaments in a row which is pretty good for a school this size. He's very good, and the boys like him. And last year they started girls' basketball again. They did pretty well for just starting; I hope they can keep that up. I guess they have basketball and a lot of things now. But anyway, Fred's a great coach. So, that's about the end of the Gladding family history up to now. With 3 more boys with the name Gladding it will probably [go on].

Thank you for your wonderful interview. I enjoyed it very much.

PHOTOGRAPHS

See next page.



In the 1920s the Fourth Ward School “Looked exactly as it does today.”



High school basketball has long been important in Virginia City.
Five championship balls are on display in the Crystal Bar.

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